

integrate their community's health care system to make it patient-centered, efficient and result in better care and improved health status.

We must establish clear expectations and accountability, offer financing flexibility and incentives to collaborate to meet patient and community needs, then monitor the results. I have introduced the Health Care Innovation Zone Program Act to spark these initiatives. Done right as part of health care reform, we will all benefit in saved lives and saved money.

#### IS AMERICA UNSINKABLE?

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, recent numbers from the White House Office of Management and Budget, featured in the ad behind me, predicts a Federal deficit of \$9 trillion over the next decade. Do we really think America is unsinkable? I urge you to visit [defeatthedeath.com](http://defeatthedeath.com) and learn more about exactly how serious the mounting debt and deficits are to every American. A television ad being run by the same group features an elementary school class citing the Pledge of Allegiance to America's debt and the Chinese Government that lends us money.

When will we wake up to how serious this problem is and take it seriously enough to deal with it? This Congress and this administration are failing the American people. We need to come together and sponsor the bipartisan Cooper-Wolf SAFE Commission bill.

#### THE TSUNAMI THAT HIT AMERICAN SAMOA

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, less than 2 months ago, Chairman NICK RAHALL and many of us on the House Committee on Natural Resources were with the wonderful people of the village of Leone, which is the home and family village of our colleague, ENI FALEOMAVAEGA, who represents American Samoa in this body. Despite the severe economic challenges they face, they lavished us with gifts, song, food, and lots of love.

Today, villages all over American Samoa and other parts of the region are devastated not only by the damage from the tsunami but, most tragically, by the loss of loved ones. Among them, I am sure, are some who sang and danced and welcomed us so warmly. We thank the President for immediately declaring a disaster. I also pledge that my community will do what we can to help them recover. Many of their fellow Americans will do the same.

Nearby Independent Samoa, which I also visited at another time, was also affected and needs our help as well. Our

hearts and prayers go out to the people of American Samoa, Samoa and the region. If anything good can come out of this terrible tragedy, very importantly right now, perhaps it will remind everyone that the people of American Samoa and the other territories are Americans and deserve equitable treatment in health care reform.

#### IRAN IS A NUCLEAR THREAT

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, in the last few days, Iran has proven its threatening nature by conducting three rounds of missile tests, reminding us of the growing nuclear threat of Iran. Iran continues to show contempt towards the U.S. and the rest of the world through its nuclear development and the support of worldwide terrorism. Furthermore, it poses an existential threat to Israel, one of our most important allies.

Iran does not need to develop further nuclear fuel for energy, as it is a net exporter of oil even now. Rather than prepare for and deter this threat, the President has chosen to appease Moscow and Tehran by disabling a missile defense initiative with no concessions in return.

This reckless decision comes on the heels of the administration's double-digit cuts to missile defense funding and F-22 development. A Commander in Chief's first priority should always be national security, yet this decision is appeasement of current and potential enemies.

#### HEROES TO HOMETOWNS GOLF CLASSIC

(Mr. LOEBSACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LOEBSACK. Tomorrow the American Legion will host the second annual Heroes to Hometowns Golf Classic at Andrews Air Force Base. This event will benefit the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund, which was established to provide educational support to children who have lost a loved one in Iraq and Afghanistan. This year's golf classic will bring together 80 wounded warriors and veteran business owners in what I'm sure will be a resoundingly successful event.

As a member of the Armed Services Committee, I have seen the positive impact that events like this have on our wounded warriors. As a former college professor, I also know the impact that a college education makes in the lives of our children. This golf classic is just one more example of the incredible work that the American Legion does on behalf of our veterans and military families, and I wish all the participants a good day on the courses.

#### WATER ON THE MOON

(Mr. OLSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, this past spring on one of my visits to the Johnson Space Center, I visited the facility where they house the lunar samples that we collected during the Apollo missions to the Moon. At that time, we had every reason to believe that the Moon was as dry as west Texas. But it turns out that is not the case. Three different spacecraft have confirmed unambiguous evidence that there is, in fact, water on the Moon. These are not pools or rivers or oceans like we know, but there are water molecules present.

Two robot probes in the nineties, Clementine and Lunar Prospector, suggested that water ice is present in the cold, dark areas of the poles. Now we find that water is much more pervasive. Water is essential for our astronauts when Americans return to the Moon, just like it was for our Founding forebearers Lewis and Clark when they immigrated west through the United States. Too many Americans closed the book on the Moon with our final Apollo mission in 1972. This finding tells us what we did know and, more importantly, what we don't know. There are still some things we don't know.

Our Nation needs to understand that it was the Apollo program that ended in 1972, not lunar exploration. This discovery proves that, in this regard, we have only just begun.

#### THE PEOPLE WILL LIKE HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank one of our Republican colleagues. You see, I've been wondering how on the one hand the Republicans could try to scare our senior citizens with some nonexistent threat to their government program, Medicare, and on the other hand try to scare the rest of the American people about the threat of another government program, the public insurance option.

Well, yesterday Senator JOHN ENSIGN answered that question for me. Before the Senate Finance Committee, he said that he's opposing the public option because—get this—"People will like it." I kid you not. I wonder if, in fact, what he would rather do is give the American people a health care system they don't like. I know that many of our Republican colleagues would consider it a tragedy if we did something in this Congress that would actually restore confidence in government in the American people, but the real tragedy will be if we don't give the American people the health care system they want and deserve.

#### THE PRESIDENT'S ADMIRERS

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, here is what some of the world's most notorious thugs, dictators and human rights violators have said about President Obama: Moammar Qaddafi, the president of Libya, who gave a hero's welcome to the terrorists who blew up the Pan American airliner, killing over 100 Americans: "We are content and happy if Obama can stay forever as the President."

Fidel Castro: "Everything he (President Obama) affirms is in contradiction with what the United States has done for 150 years."

Hugo Chavez, the dictator and human rights abuser of Venezuela: "Comrade Obama! Fidel, careful or we are going to end up to his right."

Let's hope the President is not known by his admirers. Rather, let's hope that he will stand up to his admirers. Frankly, the world would be a safer place if he did.

#### HONORING 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MOUNTAINSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

(Mr. LANCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker: Remembering the past; Part of the future. This is a theme to be celebrated on October 4 when the borough of Mountainside in my congressional district will commemorate the 75th anniversary of its public library. Since its founding in 1934 in the basement of the municipal building, the Mountainside Public Library has grown into a 10,000-square-foot facility. It provides informational, cultural, educational and recreational services to people of all ages in Mountainside and surrounding communities. Whether encouraging literacy and learning through numerous children's story and craft programs, assisting area senior citizens, or providing residents with a critical link to the digital world, the Mountainside library is providing outstanding community services to its residents. While much has changed at the Mountainside library during its 75 years, what has remained the same is the dedicated community that has generously donated time and resources to enhance the library's resources.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Mountainside Public Library for 75 years of rich and wonderful contributions to the entire community. This library is truly an important part of Mountainside's past, present, and future.

□ 1030

#### SUPPORT H.R. 3200, COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, even today we have come further than we

ever have before on the path to achieving comprehensive health insurance reform. Now is not the time to take a step back. Now is the time to keep the momentum going.

The American people want access to affordable health insurance when the small business they work for can't provide it for them. The American people want to know they won't lose their health insurance if their company has to make another round of layoffs. The American people want more doctors and nurses in their communities so they know health care is always available.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3200 accomplishes all these goals and more. I urge my colleagues to step up and seize this moment. Support this legislation to bring affordable and quality care to all Americans. Join me in strong support of H.R. 3200.

#### HONORING BRIAN GRIMM, OKLAHOMA'S TEACHER OF THE YEAR, 2009

(Mr. SULLIVAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary individual from my district, Mr. Brian Grimm.

On Thursday, September 17, Brian Grimm was named Oklahoma's Teacher of the Year. After 13 years in education and with 6 years teaching at Will Rogers High School in my hometown of Tulsa, he was selected for this highly respected, much-deserved honor by a collection of education, business, and civic leaders.

Following his graduation from Sapulpa High School in a suburb of Tulsa, he went on to the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma to pursue his lifelong dream of becoming a teacher. Brian currently teaches English and advanced placement English while pursuing his master's degree from the University of Oklahoma.

Mr. Grimm is the first teacher from Tulsa Public Schools to win this honor in over 45 years and is a true hero for the work he does for Tulsa's youth. The role teachers play in preparing our children for a successful future cannot be understated, and thanks to the highly dedicated educators like Brian Grimm, that future has never looked brighter.

I'm proud to honor him today and congratulate him on his achievement.

#### TEACHER EQUITY: EFFECTIVE TEACHERS FOR ALL CHILDREN

(Ms. HIRONO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, the Education and Labor Committee is holding a hearing later this morning on teacher equity and ensuring that all children have access to effective teachers.

The most important resource in every classroom is a caring, qualified, and competent teacher; yet highly ef-

fective teachers tend to be more concentrated in affluent communities. Children of the highest poverty and highest minority schools across the country are often taught by less experienced, less qualified teachers. These children are being shortchanged. Closing this "teacher quality gap" is a critical step in closing the achievement gap for these students.

We can do more here in Congress to support the important work teachers do and to help teachers access the professional development and support they need. We can do more to ensure that effective teachers are placed, and encouraged to stay, in the classrooms where they are most needed. By building on the work of this Congress, for example, we required States to provide assurance that they will take steps to address disparities in teacher equity as a condition of receiving Recovery Act funds.

#### ACORN

(Mr. BROWN of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I applaud my colleagues in the House and Senate for recently voting to block ACORN from receiving any additional Federal funding. It is clear that ACORN is unable to use Federal money properly, and as our constituents face financial hardships of their own, the last place hard-earned taxpayers' dollars should be allocated is to an organization known for its blatant abuse of these funds.

Thanks to action by Republicans and Democrats alike, this House has passed legislation preventing this questionable organization from receiving another cent of America's taxpayers' money.

But our efforts must not stop here. There is a complex web of nonprofits that directly fund ACORN and its affiliates.

The American public has a right to know how ACORN is funded. After all, for years we have been the ones footing the bill.

#### GUANTANAMO BAY: STILL AN IMPORTANT ISSUE

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, when President Obama and Senator McCain pledged to close our legal black hole known as Guantanamo Bay, they reaffirmed to the world that the United States is a Nation governed by the rule of law and defined by our embrace of universal human rights. Yet efforts to close this antithesis of the American justice system have stalled due to the administration's poor handling of the issue, not-in-my-backyard